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## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

July 26, 1996

Mr. David V. Crawford  
SACR/SUPR  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region VII  
726 Minnesota Avenue  
Kansas City, KS 66101

Site:	<i>Hubert Wheeler</i>
ID #:	<i>MO0000093666</i>
Break:	<i>1.6</i>
Other:	<i>Comments</i>
	<i>7-26-96</i>

RE: Removal Site Evaluation  
Hubert Wheeler State School Site  
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Mr. Crawford:

This letter summarizes the results of Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) activities conducted by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Hazardous Waste Program (HWP) at the Hubert Wheeler State School site.

In February 1996, DNR and the Missouri Department of Health (DOH) conducted Community Interviews, and reviewed historical documents at the St. Louis Public Library. According to this information, an excavated area, left behind by the former Laclede-Christy clay mine, was used as a waste disposal area from the early 1900's to the mid-1960's. This former pit area includes the current Hubert Wheeler State School property, and portions of the surrounding residential neighborhood.

A variety of waste materials were disposed in the pit, including cinders, ash, medical wastes, spoiled food, glass, brick, and X-rays. In addition to these materials, free-product, tar, and 12-18 filled 55-gallon drums of tar were reportedly buried on the Hubert Wheeler State School property.

In March 1996, DNR conducted shallow soil sampling at 22 residences near the Hubert Wheeler State School property. Deeper soil samples were collected from two commercial properties, and three residential locations.



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Eighteen polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, 2,4-dinitrotoluene, and lead were detected in the residential soil samples. DOH conducted an expedited risk assessment, and a health consultation for the residential properties. DOH determined that unlimited contact with the residential soils may pose a slight health risk. Based upon this information, we do not recommend any additional action at the residential properties.

The HWP requests that EPA conduct a non-time critical Removal Action at the Hubert Wheeler State School property to delineate and remove the suspected source(s) of tar-like material. Previous analytical results of the tar-like material, collected by DNR in July 1994, found that 17 PAH compounds were present in the substance at values exceeding 1,000 parts per million (ppm), including benzo(a)pyrene at 32,000 ppm.

If you have any questions regarding this Removal Site Evaluation, or need additional information, please contact Mr. Robert Hinkson, Project Manager, or me at (573) 751-3176.

Sincerely,

HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM



Julie Warren, Chief  
Site Evaluation Unit

Enclosure

JW:jkl

c: Mr. Brian Allen, ESP  
Ms. Cherri Baysinger-Daniel, DOH  
Mr. Art Busch, DOH  
Ms. Cecilia Tapia, EPA  
Mr. Kenneth Rapplean, EPA